

Division of Data Processing Technical Bulletin

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Submitted By:
Approved By: Leon Miller

COBOL Report Writer—Release 2

This Report Writer product is incorporated into the COBOL programming environment by means of a Precompiler. It contains the ANS-68 COBOL Report Writer supported by the OS/VS COBOL Compiler. IBM and ANS-74 extensions, and a large number of extensions which greatly expand the power and usability of the ANS-68 features. Report Writer is currently available only on the ESA test machine, but will be available on all CPUs at the time of ESA installation in March 1990.

Refer to the attached pages extracted from IBM's COBOL Report Writer PRECOMPILER Programmer's Manual (SC26-4301-1) for more information about the following features.

- C More optional abbreviations.
- C Automatic repetition vertically, horizontally, and in blocks.
- C COBOL conditions in the Report Section to control the output of lines or report items.
- C Subheadings after page or control breaks.
- C Optional printing of CONTROL HEADING groups at top of page.
- C Extended functionality of SUM feature.
- C Relative COLUMN clause, plus CENTER/RIGHT column positioning.
- C Variable-length fields.
- C Multiple-operand COLUMN and LINE clauses allowed in a single entry.
- C Arithmetic-expressions allowed as SOURCE operands.
- C Built-in and user-written FUNCTION facility.
- C Page Buffer feature for generation of irregular page formats.
- C Multiple-Report facility.
- C Directing of output through a built-in or user-written File Handler to special devices or spooling software.
- C ANS-85 features added in this release:
 - C GLOBAL and EXTERNAL report files.
 - C GLOBAL reports, and access to them from contained programs.

The Compile Process—Consists of the PRECOMPILER (report writer statements), the COMPILER (OS/VS COBOL or VS COBOL II), and the COLLATOR. The purpose of the collator is to produce your program source listing by combining the listed outputs from both the precompiler and compiler phases. The collator relies on the compiler to report certain syntax errors in the REPORT SECTION. If the precompiler phase is successful, this does not guarantee

that the Report Writer code is error free. For example, the validity of a data name coded in a SOURCE statement is not checked by the precompiler, but by the compiler. An example of the compile proc is attached.

Migration from OS/VS COBOL Report Writer to VS COBOL II: The precompiler enables you to use VS COBOL II to compile your source programs written for OS/VS COBOL with Report Writer statements, without the need to convert or re-write the Report Writer code because it addresses only the Report Writer syntax. The OS/VS COBOL code may need modification to be acceptable to the VS COBOL II compiler. Chapter 6 (see attached copy) of IBM's COBOL Report Writer PRECOMPILER Programmer's Manual (SC26-4301-1) provides more information about the migration from Native OS/VS COBOL Report Writer.

For assistance with COBOL Report Writer, contact Application Review Services, Division of Data Processing at 538-3720. To order your copy of IBM's COBOL Report Writer PRECOMPILER Programmer's Manual, contact Elaine Oaks at 538-3462.